

How to Make an SSD Group Successful

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For Social Square Dancing to be successful, it will have to truly be a destination dance program. It will have to provide a lot of dancers with valid reasons to remain as SSD dancers. For many dancers it will have to be more fun than MWSDing.

Teaching good timing and styling is one way to accomplish this. Working on being very socially oriented organization is another.

Good timing is the callers responsibility. The caller leader needs to deliver the "calls" so that dancers do not have to wait at any point in the dance routine. If you are a Modular caller, this means practicing each Module until you know the timing of each "basic" in the Module and can deliver the calls in time to the music. Your delivery must be part of the music.

If you are a sight caller, you have to know the destination Formation & Arrangement of each "basic" before you deliver the "Basic". There is no other way to do it. There can be no stop-n-go while the callers looks at the FA and decides what the dancers are going to do next. If you presently can't do this, I suggest you do not call any SSD dance.

Styling needs to be taught to everyone. The recommended styling for each basic can be found on the CALLERLAB website. ([Click here](#)). Good styling is necessary for the team aspect of square dancing. Most dancers want to look good dancing. Give them a target and good examples of how they should look dancing. Give them time to practice.

These two things will keep a lot of SSD dancers coming back to dance after dance after dance. It will also keep some of them from moving onto other kinds of square dancing with the possible exception of Traditional Square Dancing. They teach both timing and styling.

The social aspects of any SSD dance are more important than the dancing. People will come to dance with their friends more than they come to dance.

Parties need to be planned. People need to have time to just sit down and talk. The caller and their spouse need to mix with all the members. You are their leaders.

We know from past studies that percentage of the membership will never want to visit any other club than their home club. We know that less than 10% of the dancers will ever attend a state square dance convention. Only 2% will ever attend a national convention.

The rest of the square dancers would prefer to dance to just one caller. This will mean callers will be the leaders in the club. This caller will need to call about 75% of the dances.

With the above facts in mind, SSD should concentrate on what the majority of the membership prefer to do. If you have SSD dancers that say they are getting bored, encourage them to try MWSDing. Let them take a year of lessons and see if they are more happy solving dance puzzles.

SSD dancers will most likely not respond well to being-kept-on-their-toes. They will take more pride in doing dances they already know than, than having a constant diet of new choreography.

When the caller does introduce new choreography, it will be very acceptable for the caller to workshop the choreography before dancing the choreography. The dancers would rather do it right than to fail. You will be teaching them new dances forever.

